

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
EA-12 FRB-01 INR-10 IO-14 NEA-10 NSAE-00 ICA-20
OPIC-06 SP-02 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00
OMB-01 SS-15 /123 W
-----105570 290428Z /66

R 281651Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0807

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USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EIND, OECD
SUBJECT: INDUSTRY COMMITTEE DOCUMENT IND(78)1,
"SITUATION IN INDUSTRY AND TRENDS IN INDUSTRIAL POLICY"

REF: STATE 98318

1. SUMMARY - AT APRIL 20 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,
AUSTRALIA -- STRONGLY SECONDED BY JAPANESE CHAIRMAN --
URGED THAT DOCUMENT ON SITUATION IN INDUSTRY AND TRENDS
IN INDUSTRIAL POLICY BE DERESTRICTED BY NEXT MEETING
OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON MAY 11. BECKLER OF SECRETARIAT
TAKES SAME POSITION. MISSION RECOMMENDS EFFORT TO

COMPLY. END SUMMARY.

2. IN ADVANCE OF APRIL 20 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, WE
CONVEYED TO INDUSTRY DIRECTORATE CHIEF BECKLER OUR
INSTRUCTION THAT DERESTRICTION AWAIT JUNE IC MEETING,
AND ALSO INFORMED HIM OF SOME PROBLEMS MISSION PERCEIVED
IN THE REPORT (E.G. OBSOLESCENCE OF SOME DATA AND FACT
THAT ONLY U.S. IS SINGLED OUT AS COUNTRY MOVING TOWARDS
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IMPORT RESTRAINTS). BECKLER VOICED MISGIVINGS (SEE
BELOW) BUT, ACTING ON OWN, ARRANGED TO HAVE ITEM
WITHDRAWN FROM APRIL 20 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AGENDA.

3. DURING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, AUSTRALIAN
PERMREP DONOVAN ASKED WHY ITEM WAS STRICKEN FROM
AGENDA, TO WHICH U.S. DEL REPLIED THAT WE HAD TO

CLARIFY OUR INSTRUCTIONS. DONOVAN EXPRESSED DISMAY AT DELAY IN DERESTRICTING REPORT AND ASKED THAT U.S. SPEEDILY PROVIDE SECRETARIAT WITH WHATEVER COMMENTS WE CONSIDER NECESSARY THAT REPORT CAN, IN FACT, BE RECOMMENDED FOR DERESTRICTION BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AT ITS NEXT SESSION. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN (HIRAHARA) UNDERSCORED AUSTRALIAN POSITION. (WE TOLD AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR AFTER MEETING THAT WE HAD SOME SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEMS AND WANTED TO UPDATE FIGURES.) ITEM WAS THEN INSCRIBED ON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING, MAY 11.

4. BOTH PRIOR AND SUBSEQUENT TO MEETING BECKLER EXPRESSED TO US HIS UNHAPPINESS WITH U.S. APPROACH TO THIS ISSUE. HE ARGUED FOR SPEEDY DERESTRICTION SINCE THIS REPORT ON INDUSTRIAL SITUATION DURING 1977 WAS RAPIDLY GOING OUT OF DATE. RE OUR PROPOSAL TO DEFER DERESTRICTION UNWIL JUNE IC MEETING, BECKLER SAID THAT IC WOULD NOT WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO RECONSIDER A REPORT WHICH IT DECIDED DURING ITS NOVEMBER 1977 MEETING TO SUBMIT TO THE COUNCIL WITH A RECOMMENDATION FOR DERESTRICTION (SEE PARA VI, (III) OF SUMMARY RECORD IND/M(77)3). HE ARGUED THAT IF U.S. MADE ISSUE OF THIS, IT MIGHT COMPLICATE OUR EFFORTS TO SECURE IC CHAIRMANSHIP SINCE DEFERRAL OF REPORT TO THE JUNE MEETING WOULD PROBABLY ENTAIL NO DERESTRICTED REPORT

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FOR 1977 AT ALL, AND THIS WOULD REFLECT ON AUSTRALIAN

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-----105300 290434Z /66

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CHAIRMANSHIP AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN GENERAL. RESPOND-
ING TO MISSION OFFICER QUESTION, BECKLER SAID THERE WERE
NO URGENT REQUESTS BY OTHER DELS OR FROM PRIVATE GROUPS
FOR THE REPORT, AND THAT DERESTRICTION NEED NOT ENTAIL
ANY WIDER CIRCULATION OF DOCUMENT, SINCE INTERESTED OF-
FICIALS ALREADY HAVE IT. AS IN CASE OF DOCUMENT ON
FUTURE INDUSTRIAL STRUCTURES, (DSTI/IND/77.59 REVISED)
AGREEMENT TO DERESTRICT COULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY GUIDANCE
TO SECRETARIAT TO TAKE NO INITIATIVE TO FURTHER CIRCUL-
LATE DOCUMENT AND NOT TO PUBLISH IT. (EXCOM DISCUSSION
OF JAN 24 (CE/M(78)2(PROV) PARA 7.) BECKLER SAID HE
THOUGHT FURTHER EXTENSIVE WORK ON DOCUMENT WOULD BE MIS-
PLACED, SINCE IT IS NOW HISTORY, AND EFFORTS SHOULD RATH-
ER BE DEVOTED TO 1978 REPORT. BECKLER SAID HIS ESSENTIAL
INTEREST WAS IN CLEARING RECORD ON DOCUMENT.

5. AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION MEMBER EXPLAINED THAT HIS
PERMREP'S POSITION HAD BEEN TAKEN TO PROTECT RECORD OF
OUTGOING IC CHAIRMAN WOODS. AUSTRALIAN FELT NO WIDER
PUBLICATION OF DOCUMENT WOULD BE NEEDED, BUT THAT
WOODS HAD BEEN CHARGED BY IC IN NOVEMBER WITH
COLLABORATING WITH SECRETARIAT TO PREPARE DOCUMENT FOR
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DERESTRICTION, AND THAT U.S. PROPOSAL WOULD THEREFORE
REFLECT ADVERSELY ON WOODS (WHO, IN ALL PROBABILITY,
HAD NEVER SEEN REDRAFT).

6. COMMENT: WE HAVE IMPORTANT INTEREST IN NOT ALIENAT-
ING THE AUSTRALIANS OR OTHERS OVER THIS ISSUE, SO
MISSION BELIEVES WE SHOULD TRY HARD TO COMPLY WITH THEIR
DESIRE FOR EARLY DERESTRICTION (HOPEFULLY BY MAY 11)
AND NOT REQUIRE JUNE INDUSTRY COMMITTEE TO RECONSIDER
THE PAPER. SINCE DOCUMENT CAN BE KEPT FROM GENERAL
CIRCULATION (THROUGH FORMULA BECKLER SUGGESTS IN
PARA 4 ABOVE), WE SUGGEST U.S. REQUIRE ONLY THOSE
CHANGES NEEDED TO MAKE DOCUMENT MINIMALLY ACCEPTABLE
TO US. IF WASHINGTON COULD GIVE US GUIDANCE ON THIS
BY MAY 3, WE COULD DISCUSS WITH SECRETARIAT AND
AUSTRALIANS TO DETERMINE BEST WAY TO PROCEED, HOPE-
FULLY LEADING TO DERESTRICTION OF DOCUMENT WITH
FEW CHANGES ON MAY 11.

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